



March 13, 2018

GLOBAL AND STRATEGIC VIEW

[McMaster: Maximum pressure on North Korea until progress](#)

Defense News, Mar. 12

The U.S. national security adviser said that the U.N. Security Council supports President Donald Trump's optimism about the opportunity for a diplomatic solution in North Korea — and his intention to keep up maximum pressure until there is "real progress" toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

[U.S. Braces for Return of Terrorist Safe Havens to Afghanistan](#)

The New York Times, Mar. 12

Al Qaeda remains a persistent and deadly threat across the country, according to Lt. Gen. Robert P. Ashley, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Ashley said the Islamic State in Khorasan intended to "expand ISIS' self-declared caliphate and compete with the Taliban for recognition as the dominant militant group in the region."

[Mattis Aims To Curb Iran's Influence On The Arabian Peninsula](#)

NPR, Mar. 12

Secretary Jim Mattis is in the Gulf country of Oman meeting with its leader. Mattis' visit is seen as an effort to shore up ties with that country, and also as a part of an effort to prevent Iranian weapons from being shipped to Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen.

[Eastern Ghouta: Mattis warns Syria over 'weaponized gas'](#)

BBC News, Mar. 11

Defence Secretary Mattis has warned Syria it would be "very unwise" to use poison gas in Eastern Ghouta amid reports of chlorine attacks.

[ISIS Tries to Take Back Iraq As US Allies Switch Sides in Syria](#)

Newsweek, Mar. 12

Fighters loyal to the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) have attempted to relive their self-proclaimed caliphate by taking advantage of fleeing U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces to storm the Iraqi border, according to local reports.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[Service Secretaries: People Are Most Important Part of DoD's Success](#)

Defense News, Mar. 12

Army Secretary Mark T. Esper, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer and Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told the Center for Strategic and International Studies that the American military's most crucial advantage is its people and that investment must continue to attract and retain them.

[Pentagon says media 'complicit' by posting ISIS ambush video](#)

Politico, Mar 5

The Pentagon is warning media outlets not to publish a video released by ISIS over the weekend purportedly showing a deadly ambush of American troops last fall in Niger. "

THREAT NETWORKS

[3 Austin Package Explosions, 2 of Them Deadly, Appear to Be Linked](#)

The New York Times, Mar. 12

The police confirmed that both explosions and a previous incident were all at residences and caused by "very powerful" IEDs.

[SIM cards used in Raichur IEDs traced to Bengaluru](#)

Deccan Herald, Mar. 12

Two low-intensity IEDs and two SIM cards connected to it were recovered from a KSRTC bus on the outskirts of Raichur in December 2016. Now, investigators say there's a connection to the culprit.

[FG says most suicide bombings done under drug influence](#)

Vanguard, Mar. 12

In response to IED incidents, Nigerian officials extended counter-IED efforts beyond control of explosives and precursor materials to include the human aspect of the threat, which is the motivational factor.

COUNTER-UAS

[Drone Swarms Are a Big Threat to Infantry](#)

i-HLS - Israel Homeland Security, Mar. 12

The emergence of inexpensive small unmanned aircraft systems (sUASs) that operate without a human pilot has led to adversarial groups threatening deployed U.S. forces, especially infantry units.

[The Pentagon's New Partner for Building Drones Should Make Us All Nervous](#)

AlterNetm, Mar. 10

Through Project Maven, the Pentagon is able to follow the movement of people in the crosshairs of the aerial drones. And it's apparently gearing up to attack ISIS enclaves in the Middle East.

[Yemen coast a 'live fire laboratory' for firing lasers](#)

Defense News, Mar. 12

Each of the military branches researches, tests and deploys various laser systems. Right now, a real battlespace is hosting a showcase of laser threats and countermeasures off the coast of Yemen. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller told congressional representatives during a budget hearing that the area is a hot zone for the use of both offensive and defense laser systems.

WORLDWIDE IED EVENTS

[Heavy IED Explosion Kills 4 Soldiers In Borno](#)

SaharaReporters.com, Mar.12

A massive explosion from an IED killed soldiers in the Nigerian Army in Kagaruwa near Monguno in Borno State. The IED also injured other soldiers.

OF INTEREST

[13 Photos of Military Working Dogs Being Awesome](#)

Defense News, Mar. 12

military working dogs, including bomb detection dogs - both currently serving and retired – are highlighted.